IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 19-20 as follows (deletions crossed out, additions underlined):

In the case of processing a color image, steps as shown below will be followed. In this case, an image stored in the storing means 5 is denoted by P1, in which the primary-color components of red, green, and blue are respectively denoted by P1r, P1g, P1b, and an image inputted through the input means 3 is denoted by P2, in which the primary-color components of red, green, and blue are respectively denoted by P2r, P2g, P2b. Further, the absolute values of the respective differences between P1r and P2r, P1g and P2g, P1b and P2b are denoted by Dr, Dg, Db, and the threshold values of the respective primary-color components set through the threshold value setting section 27 are denoted by Tr, Tg, Tb. In a case where $Dr \leq Tr$ and $Dg \leq Tg$ and $Db \leq Tb$ are held, they are recognized as a common portion, and the pixel value P1 (X, Y) is sent to the output means 6. On the other hand, in a case where $Dr > Tr$ or $Dg > Tg$ or $Db > Tb$ is held, a value of zero is sent to the output means 6 as a pixel value. In the case of carrying out a process of outputting from two documents, a pixel value of a result of comparison by the comparing means 4 is sent from the output means 6 to the image processing section 20. In the case of carrying out a process of extracting from three or more documents, a result of comparison by the comparing means 4 is sent from the output means 6 to the image processing section 20 only when the last document is compared, and at other times, a result of comparison by the comparing means 4 is sent from the output means 6 to the storing means 5 and ~~replaced with~~ <u>replaces the</u> data previously stored in the storing means.